

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Robert O'Brien

Art Unit: 2856

Application No. 09/770,942

Filed: January 25, 2001

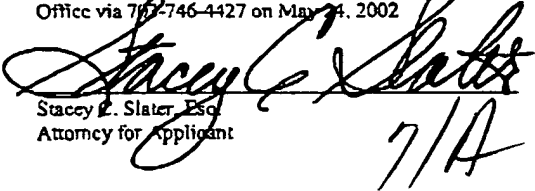
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
CONCENTRATING SAMPLES FOR
ANALYSIS

Examiner: Politzer, J.

Date: May 24, 2002

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence and any documents referred to as being transmitted herewith are being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office via 703-746-4427 on May 24, 2002


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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Applicant proposes the following amendments to facilitate prosecution of the referenced application and correct a number of typographical errors. No new matter is added.

As amended, the claims are particularly directed to methods of pneumatic focusing as applied to gas chromatography, and to gas chromatographic instruments for performing these methods. The U.S. Receiving Office for the corresponding PCT application has already searched claims of the PCT application.

Applicant's claims as amended below are within the scope of the International Search Report. Therefore, applicant submits that the amended set of claims have already been searched, and hence there is no undue burden imposed on Examiner Politzer to examine these claims as amended. Applicant respectfully requests that the claims pending after entry of this amendment be examined on the merits.

Please amend the claims as follows.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 3, 9, 15, 16, 19, 43 and 44 without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to file continuing applications directed to these cancelled claims.

Please amend the claims as follows: